

## 43rd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT • ASSEMBLY DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS CHAIR

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## Jorgensen, Democrats Hold Republicans Accountable for Attack on Open Government

MADISON –Assembly Democratic Caucus Chair and State Representative Andy Jorgensen (D-Milton) today held his colleagues across the aisle accountable for their attack on transparency in government. While Republicans refused to commit to the preservation of open records laws in the future, Democrats did force a majority of Republicans to recognize the grave mistake they made in attempting changes in the state budget bill. All but one Republican, Rep. Scott Allen of Waukesha, were shamed into voting for Assembly Resolution 12.

"Today, we drew a line in the sand: Wisconsin records must remain open and transparent to the public," said Jorgensen.

One week ago, 12 Republican members of the Joint Finance Committee voted in the dark of the night to approve Motion 999, which that would have given legislators special privileges, allowing them to block the release of nearly all their office communications and records.

"People who want to hide things from others generally have good reason for it. They've done something wrong. They've done something for which they're ashamed. Maybe they've done something illegal," said Jorgensen. "So, to the Republicans who wanted to keep their office records private, I ask: what is your reason?"

Under tremendous pressure from Democrats, good government advocates, and the public, Republicans later rolled their proposal back, but still balked at "naming names" on its authorship and have yet to share drafting documents.

"Like so many people across Wisconsin, I'm still left wondering what Republicans are trying to hide," said Jorgensen. "Today, they could not commit to safeguarding our open records law in the future, so it's a safe assumption they'll attempt changes again. We must remain vigilant and keep the pressure on, to ensure state government remains open to public scrutiny."

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